

132 vegetation is abundant, and near the sea semi-tropical in its luxuriance.

East of the Suram Mountains the climate is dry, with extremes of heat and cold. The summer is oppressively hot, particularly in the Kura valley. The Caspian basin, as a whole, suffers from drought, and in the Baku district violent sand and dust storms are common.

The climate in the Armenian Highlands shows characteristics similar to those of the two areas above described. At Alexandropol snow lies till the middle of April, spring lasts a fortnight, and the summer parches the country to the condition of a desert. The Aras valley has a somewhat less rigorous climate.

Recent climatic statistics for the three areas are shown in the table given on p. 7.

(4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

[544] Sanitation in anything like the modern sense of the word is practically unknown in Transcaucasia. Medical facilities, except in the larger towns, are practically non-existent. Constant epidemics of malaria are caused by the marshy conditions prevailing on the Black Sea coast, and in the valleys of the Rion, Aras, and Kura. Goitre and epilepsy are common among the natives of Svanetia. Leprosy occurs among the poorer classes of the Persian population. Elisavetopol is notorious for the so-called Sartian sickness, a kind of skin eruption.

(5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

563 Of the numerous peoples represented in Caucasra,
197 some belong to the white race, others to the Mongolian
106 or yellow race.

I. The inhabitants who are of white race belong to the Indo-European, Semitic, or Caucasian families.

Indo-European Family.—Everywhere there are Russian officials, merchants, and soldiers, and there are also large numbers of peasants, who are either voluntary colonists or religious exiles from European Russia. They speak both Great and Little Russian.

Caucasia] CISCAUCASIA (HEALTH, ETC.) 17

In the 'black earth' steppes of Ciscaucasia the maximum rainfall is at the beginning of summer; on the eastern steppes, which extend along the Caspian Sea, the maximum is reached in March.

(4) SANITARY CONDITIONS

The science of hygiene is unknown in Caucasian villages, and medical aid is absent or inaccessible in country districts. Malaria is the characteristic disease of Caucasias, but small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, dysentery, typhus, and pneumonia are prevalent and cause many deaths.

In the fashionable health resorts, such as Kislovodsk and Jeliéznovodsk and Pyatigorsk, there are very up-to-date sanatoria established on the latest German lines, to which people come from all parts of Russia to take the waters and the cure.

(5) RACE AND LANGUAGE

Russians form 34 per cent. of the people of Ciscaucasia, and in the Government of Stavropol amount to 90 per cent. In the Province of Kuban 109 per 1,000 are Cossacks; in Terek the proportion is 179 per 1,000. Tatars live in the east and south-east, where they form 19.3 per cent. of the inhabitants. The remainder consists of Kalmucks, Turcomans, Nogai-Tatars, Armenians, Georgians, Germans, Poles, &c. (See also p. 8.)

(6) POPULATION

The population of the three Ciscaucasian provinces on January 1, 1913, was 5,470,600, distributed as follows:

	Rural Population.	Urban Population.	Total.
Kuban . . .	2,667,000	244,800	2,911,800
Stavropol . .	1,232,400	79,700	1,312,100
Terek . . .	1,015,100	231,800	1,246,900

Towns

Ekaterinodar (population in 1897, 65,697, now about 107,000), the capital of the Province of Kuban, is

- *133 westerly course slightly north of lat. 45° N.; therefore, before flowing into the Kuban it receives quite a few tributaries--the Fars, Ul, Giyaga, and, a short distance before the confluence with the Kuban, the Psenaf. The Laba also has one tributary from the right, the Sinyukha with its tributary, the Chamlik. The tributaries of the Kuban farther to the west become smaller and shorter the longer we continue in that direction, as the Kuban approaches the Caucasus more and more closely and the latter subsides to an ever-greater extent; as a result, the size of the individual drainage systems diminishes accordingly. West of the Laba system is the Belaia system, with its eastern source river Nisha, and its western tributaries Kurdjips and Pshekha, the sources of which are in and near the Oshten-Fisht massif (given on the map of 1916 as the Nagoi-Koshka-Tuba group); immediately west is the Pshish, flowing through a rather deep incision in the Caucasus range, west of which there are no elevations above 1000 m. The sources of the Pshish, the larger ones being the Psekups, Afips, and Khabi, are rather insignificant; some of the smaller ones do not reach the Kuban at present but ooze out into swamps flanking the lower course of the Kuban from the Psenaf confluence on, thus making the Kuban valley a rather unhealthy area. This is also true of the swamp regions along the lower Terek, Kuban, Manych, or the entire Caspian littoral;
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● 164

malaria is a most common disease in these places. Up to 1934, sanitation had made no particular progress there.

The Black Sea Drainage System,
Except for the Rioni

*733

Typical of the steep Black Sea coast of the Caucasus in its northwestern portion are small water courses which, the farther southeast we go, take on the character of Alpine creeks and torrents. Only southeast of the Pshish incision and the city of Tuapse do we find several more sizeable water courses: the Psezuapse, about 40 km. southeast of Tuapse; the smaller rivers Shakhs and Svechi, emptying near Sochi; the larger Mzimta, reaching the sea near Adler; and the Bzipi (Russian Bzyb), forming at its estuary an alluvial gravel fan 20 km. south of the town of Gagra (Russian Gagry). The Bzipi has its sources south of the main range and south of the Zelenchuk sources, and for about 70 km. it has a western direction similar to that of most of the rivers rising from the southern slopes of the Caucasus and having a generally latitudinal direction. The Kodor River, with its estuary about 25 km. southeast of the city of Sukhumi, has its sources between the main range of the Caucasus and the Kodor range, the southern parallel range. Its eastern source river is the Gvandra, coming from the southern slopes and glaciers of Mt.